

Appl. No. : 10/712,388
Filed : November 12, 2003

REMARKS

This application is a Continuation-in-Part of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/012,272, filed on December 1, 2001, now Patent No. 6,685,016 issued on February 3, 2004. Claims 1 – 16 stand pending in the present application.

On September 28, 2005, the Examiner stated that Claims 1 – 16 are subject to a restriction and/or election requirement between the following:

Species I: The snap connector

Species II: The hook-and-loop connector.

In response, Applicant hereby elects Species II (The hook-and-loop connector) for prosecution on the merits, without traverse, and without prejudice to the prosecution of any non-elected claims in one or more divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part applications. Claims 1 – 14 and 16 are either generic to or read on this Species.

CONCLUSION

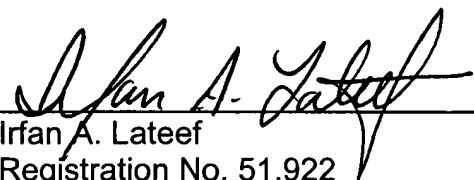
If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate the same with the undersigned.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: October 13, 2005

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